

## TUBERS COME FROM ABROAD.

New York City Importing Foreign Potatoes.

DOMESTIC ARTICLE MUCH TOO DEAR.

Farmers Take Advantage of the Famine to Hold Out for Higher Prices—Cheaper to Buy in the Old Country—Those Who Did So Gather Small Fortunes.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—For the last few weeks probably four-fifths of the potatoes reaching New York City for consumption have come from Europe. That America should be a buyer of trans-Atlantic potatoes seems strange to the private consumer, and even those on the inside of the potato market admit that it is rather odd.

Not for eight years has this country brought potatoes abroad in great quantities. Last Saturday the steamer Southwark arrived from Antwerp with 90,000 bushels, the Vanderland is expected tomorrow with 60,000 bushels, and the Laurerstein from Glasgow in a day or two with 50,000 bushels.

Going on for Three Weeks. This has been going on for about three weeks. The potatoes come from Scotland, Ireland, and Belgium. The potato crop in these countries has been particularly good, and the crop here the worst this country has had for many years.

Last summer potatoes sold as high as \$1 a barrel, but that was a time when potatoes were expected to be high. They were higher than usual, though, because of droughts and bad weather. The fall crop was worse yet, but prices dropped in September until the farmers had to sell that part of their crop which would not keep.

Building Out for High Prices. The good portions they put in their cellars and storehouses because they could get the high price. The price of potatoes went up a dollar in three days, three weeks ago. Many farmers in the last three weeks have refused to sell their potatoes for love or money, and those that would sell have been demanding as much as \$3 a barrel.

That brought the price here to private consumers up to \$1 and \$1.50 at a time when potatoes are usually cheap. At least that is the explanation they give around the produce market.

Small Prices Resented. It was said today that a few individuals had anticipated the action of the farmers and early in November began buying potatoes on the other side. Potatoes abroad can be bought for 70 cents a bushel. Other charges bring the price of potatoes from Europe to \$1.70 a barrel on the New York pier.

Importers, according to reports, have been cleaning up small fortunes. Recently, on account of these increasing importations, the farmers began to show a little disposition to sell, and the price of domestic potatoes has come down a little, but even now they range from \$2.25 to \$2.75.

A Change Predicted. The people who have not been importing European potatoes say it will soon be their turn to laugh, because farmers are getting ready to drop their prices still further. The wholesale price for potatoes this time of the year ought to be about \$1.80.

New York consumes about 25,000 bushels of potatoes a day, according to trade estimates. The outlook seems to be that New Yorkers will continue to eat imported potatoes and pay high prices for some time.

## OSCAR F. BRESSE DEAD.

Well-Known Citizen of Baltimore Passes Away.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 16.—Oscar F. Bresse, one of Baltimore's wealthiest citizens, a pioneer in the insurance business here, died this afternoon from a complication of diseases. Mr. Bresse was born March 26, 1825, at Montreal. He came to Baltimore from Hartford and engaged in the insurance business.

Later he went to Harrisburg, Pa., to act as general agent for the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Then he went to Richmond, Va., where he assumed the general agency of the Insurance Company of the Valley of Virginia, with headquarters in Winchester.

Mr. Bresse continued in this position until 1898. He organized the Insurance Company of the State of Virginia, for which he acted as secretary and treasurer. He amassed a fortune, which was swept away during the civil war.

He resumed the general agency of the Mutual Life in Richmond, Va., and added that of the Security Fire of New York, which positions he held until his removal to Baltimore in 1898.

In this city for more than thirty years he devoted his entire time to the interests in this territory of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, of New York. His wife was Miss Louisa Kleckner, of Berlin, Pa.

## CONTESTING SUICIDE'S WILL.

Litigation Over the Estate of Weston B. Turner.

The validity of the will of Weston B. Turner, of Falls Church, Va., who, it is believed, committed suicide on March 23, 1900, after having killed his wife, is a subject of litigation before Chief Justice Binham, presiding in Circuit Court No. 1. A contest over the distribution of the estate of Mr. Turner was begun in the Circuit Court of Virginia, and the cause was certified to this jurisdiction for settlement.

Mr. Turner, by his will, left his estate to the relatives of his wife and his heirs at law. He had instituted proceedings contesting the will on the ground that at the time of the execution of the will he was incapable of executing a valid document. The estate is valued at \$20,000.

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## PRO-BOER ADVOCATE HERE.

General O'Brien Speaks Audience With the President.

It is the intention of Gen. James R. O'Brien, the pro-Boer advocate of New York, to secure an audience with the President in the near future for the purpose of discussing the war in South Africa.

The Boers since the accession of Mr. Roosevelt to the Presidency, have pinned fresh hopes on an initiative mediatory step by the United States.

## REGULATING SUGAR BOUNTIES.

Sugar Conference Delegates Assemble in Private in Brussels.

BRUSSELS, Dec. 16.—The sugar conference met at the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs today. The delegates were received by M. de Smet de Nayer, President of the Council. The sittings are being held in private.

It is expected the president of the conference will propose the abolition of direct and indirect bounties and the prohibition of indirect bounties for the interior market, which will be protected only by the tax being levied by 4 or 5 francs and that countries maintaining the tax on sugar consumption should establish surveillance on its production, so that the tax be paid on the real production.

## DEFEW RUMOR AGAIN REVIVED.

TALK OF RECASTING THE CABINET

Report That Mr. Hay Will Be Succeeded by Mr. Choate, and Mr. Depew Go to London.

Once More Current.

The departure of Senator Depew for Europe to visit Mrs. May Palmer in Paris has given rise to renewed rumors among New York politicians in this city that he will resign his seat in the Senate shortly after his marriage and be succeeded by Lieutenant Governor Timothy L. Woodruff.

Senator Depew's reported intention is based upon the understanding that he is to succeed Mr. Joseph H. Choate as Ambassador to Great Britain, and that the latter will succeed Mr. Hay as Secretary of State.

It has been common gossip for some weeks that Secretary Hay would be the first member to retire from the Cabinet. As long ago as last summer it was given out by the Secretary's friends that he would retire from public life. He was induced by President Roosevelt to remain. But now that the Hay-Roosevelt Treaty is out of the way, the Secretary of State can gracefully make way for his successor, who, it is said by those on the inside, will be either Secretary Root or Ambassador Choate.

Other Changes Expected. This break in Mr. Roosevelt's official family, in whose selection he had no voice, will be followed by other changes, it is believed, such as marked the recasting of the Garfield Cabinet by President Arthur after the retirement of Secretary Blaine.

Trade Paper Says It Was Let to an Irresponsible Concern.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—That there has been trouble in the Philippines with the quality of the drugs furnished by the Government contractors to the officers of the Surgeon General of the Army has been a rumor of the drug trade for many months. The "Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter" in the number of today contains a statement from its Washington correspondent that the trouble occurred nearly two years ago in regard to a shipment of quinine.

In the summer of 1898 the Surgeon General's Office undertook to obtain a large quantity of drugs on short notice for use in the Philippines. Included in this order were 12,500 bottles of two-grain quinine tablets (500 tablets in the bottle). Soon after this assignment, which was furnished by a San Francisco house, reached the Philippines there was complaint that the tablets were adulterated.

An investigation was made and 12,227 of the 12,500 bottles were sent back to the contractors. The contractors represented that any adulteration which might be found in the tablets was due to no fault of theirs, and they complied with the requirement of the department that they substitute for the rejected tablets others of standard quality.

The "Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter" says editorially that the trouble shows the inadvisability of letting Government contracts to firms which have not an acknowledged standard of purity of their drugs. Any one of the number of Eastern firms, says the "Reporter," could have filled the order promptly and with no possibility that the purity of the drugs would ever be questioned, while the San Francisco firm even at its own statement was so overtaxed by the order that it shipped impure drugs without knowing whether they were pure or not.

## FAVOR CUBAN RECIPROCITY.

New York Merchants' Association Begins an Active Campaign.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The directors of the Merchants' Association have adopted resolutions on the subject of the establishment of reciprocal relations with Cuba by special act of Congress. Expression of the views of the late President McKinley, President Roosevelt, Secretary of War Root, and Governor Wood are quoted to the effect that unless conditions are improved the island will go in a bankruptcy.

The resolution states: "That the directors of the Merchants' Association urgently request Congress to give immediate consideration to these conditions and to pass as speedily as possible such legislation in the way of lowering the duties upon the Cuban products coming to the United States as will open a market for those products, conditioned, of course, upon the establishment of reciprocal arrangements in favor of American manufactured products, which might naturally seek a market in Cuba, but which, owing to Cuba's present tariff schedule and restricted purchasing power, are now barred therefrom."

Copies are being mailed to 120,000 merchants throughout the country, to all commercial organizations in the United States, to President Roosevelt and the members of his Cabinet, and to all members of Congress. Other commercial bodies are invited to co-operate in the work.

## Arrested on Suspicion.

John Washington, colored, was arrested yesterday by Detective Larry O'Dea on suspicion of having broken into house 1151 Bacon Street northwest and stolen a Brussels carpet valued at \$16.

The house was formerly occupied by Mrs. Clara Letz. Washington was employed by her as a coachman and had arranged to buy the carpet for \$2.50. He is said to have paid \$1.25 and arranged to pay the rest on Saturday. Washington failed to make the payment, and in the meantime the house had been entered and the carpet stolen. Washington lives on Sheridan Street, Anacostia.

## Stolen Rug in His Room.

Arthur Mulloy, an ironworker employed on the new building of the Merchants' Transfer and Storage Company, E Street, between Ninth and Tenth Streets northwest, was arrested yesterday by Detective Tyser on a charge of housebreaking.

Some time during the past three days he is said to have forced a lock on a stable belonging to John Waters and carried away a rug valued at \$15 and a carpet valued at \$10. The rug was recovered by the detective in Mulloy's room, 325 Maryland Avenue southwest.

## TO BUILD A NEW LINE.

Packers Behind Projected Road From Omaha to Emporia.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 16.—For more than a week a representative of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad has been in Omaha at the request of local capitalists arranging for a connecting line from here to the terminus of that road at Emporia, Kan., a distance of 220 miles.

Articles of incorporation will be filed within a week's time and construction will begin as soon after the first of the year as the weather permits. Stock and packing house men are behind the Omaha end of the proposition, and are much elated at the success of their plans, which they have kept secret until today.

The new line will open the Indian Territory and Texas cattle ranges to the Omaha stock yards, and will be of great benefit to Nebraska.

## UP-TO-DATE THINGS.

LACKING IN FRANCE.

OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS.

Exporters Could Do Business in Rouen, Consul Haynes Believes.

In Heating Apparatus and Similar Conveniences.

Americans who are dissatisfied with their lot in life or with the public comforts which they enjoy are probably unacquainted with the conditions of living in many of the populous cities of France.

In one of these, Rouen, the United States Consul, Thorneill Haynes, says some of the practical necessities of American life, such as steam radiators and up-to-date barber chairs, are unknown, and electricity is such a luxury that in hotels where it is available its use is specially announced.

He sends word to the State Department that American manufacturers of articles in these lines would doubtless find a good market there for their products.

The Cost of Keeping Warm. Regarding some of the American utilities with which many French cities are unacquainted, Consul Haynes says of heating apparatus:

"France is a country in which the most astonishing variations of temperature occur, and its inhabitants pay yearly nearly \$100,000,000 for various methods of warming themselves. On coal about \$10,000,000 is spent on wood about \$30,000,000, and the rest goes for petroleum, methylated spirits, and gas."

Wood a Luxury of the Rich. "Wood, which before the introduction of coal was the staple fuel, is now the luxury of the rich. In many of the cities gas has ousted charcoal from the kitchen; one reason being that, according to French taste, there is nothing like gas for certain operations, such as scorching a steak, because the heat can be applied from above."

"There is not in Rouen a hot-water or steam radiator. Heat is furnished by coal stoves, grates, and occasionally furnaces. All the principal offices here have stoves, and the proprietors do not seem to know or care for anything better."

Candles in General Use. Lighting apparatus of up to date sort is very sadly lacking, says Consul Haynes.

"Electricity, gas, petroleum, and candles," he reports, "are the chief sources of light; candles are most common, and are exclusively used throughout the country districts of Normandy by rich and poor alike. In the advertisements of two of the best hotels in this city, emphasis is laid upon the fact that guests will have the convenience of electricity. In the business houses of Rouen gas is principally used, electricity but very slowly superseding it. A good lamp—one that gives a bright light and uses little oil—would, I believe, meet with success."

French Lamps Inferior. "The French lamp is the best, but a poor affair, generally with a wick arranged to give a circular flame, and with a tall chimney. It burns considerable oil and emits a feeble light, while the price is from 50 to 100 per cent higher than the same article would cost in New York. I have never seen anything like the Rochester burner here, or any apparatus to enlarge the flame."

"The tariff on lamps per 220 pounds is as follows: Porcelain, brass, iron and glass lamps, \$11.58. Metal lamps: Nickel-plated, \$23.95; gold or silver plated, \$48.25. The tariff for mountings, in case of detachable lamps, is \$1.54 per 220 pounds, but the box and permanently connected parts pay as above. While these figures are official, I would not advise American exporters to depend upon them. To know accurately it is always better to submit a sample."

An Opening for Barber Chairs. "There is in this district an opportunity for the introduction of barber chairs," says the consul. "The best barber shops in Rouen, a city of over 150,000 inhabitants, have straight-backed, cane-seated armchairs, with a crude detachable head rest, all of which could be bought anywhere in the United States for \$2."

"The patronage of barber shops in Normandy is large; a shave can be had for 5 or 7 cents. As a general rule, the hairdresser here takes great pride in his work; he likes keen razors, clean mirrors, and an attractive shop, and it would be strange if the luxurious American barber chair did not appeal to him."

"While barber chairs are not specially mentioned in the tariff schedule, they would very likely be classified under one of the following heads (per 220 pounds): Furniture of bent wood: Plain, \$5.00; ornamented, \$11.15. Furniture of other materials: Of bent wood: Chairs of common wood, not carved nor inlaid or ornamented with copper, \$2.12; chairs of bentwood, not carved nor inlaid or ornamented with copper, \$3.86; chairs of any sort of wood, covered, inlaid, or ornamented with copper, \$5.73."

Cash Registers Unknown. "So far as I have seen, there is not a single cash register in Rouen. Every shop or store has its cashier, usually a member of the proprietor's family—the wife, daughter, or sister—who does all her sewing at the desk where the purchases are paid for, the clerk never being allowed to handle any money."

"This old-fashioned and supposedly economical custom would be hard to overcome, and those who try the introduction of registers need not look for quick results unless they are shown to add rather than usurp the work of the cashier. If a market were once created it would undoubtedly yield large returns."

"It would seem that the best field for trial is offered by the numerous cafes, where sales are constant from morning until late at night."

PROF. FREEMAN REBELS. Schoolboy Who Annoyed Him Arraigned in Police Court.

Prof. John T. Freeman, supervising principal of the public schools of the third division, was complaining witness in the Police Court yesterday, against Vernon Keiser, a sixteen-year-old lad, charged with making insulting remarks.

Young Keiser lives in Northeast Washington. He appeared in court in a cadet suit. "Your honor," said Prof. Freeman, "I have been standing taunted from a crowd of boys in Northeast Washington for the year or more, and want to be relieved. Every time I go near the Maury School, some of the gang greets me with 'Hi, there, Reddy.' I'm tired of it."

"I can't say positively that this youth is the one who yelled at me Saturday, but he was in the crowd, and his conduct after the incident leads me to believe he did."

"I only 'bollered' at him once," said young Keiser.

"That was once too often," said his honor severely. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself. Prof. Freeman is one of the men trying to fit you for a successful career. You ought to be grateful to him. You ought to respect him. Why did you insult him?"

"I didn't intend to insult him," replied Keiser. "The other boys told me 'Well, cry if I called him Reddy.'"

"Well, I teach you not to indulge in such conduct again," said his honor. "Five dollars fine."

Keiser's father was in court, and paid the fine.

A BRICK AND A BELGIAN BLOCK. Howard Moulton Caused Great Devastation With Them.

Howard Moulton, colored, was fined \$29 for destroying private property and \$3 for being disorderly by Judge Kimball in the Police Court yesterday.

A couple of witnesses testified that Moulton went into a saloon on M Street Saturday night and got into a dispute with the bartender, and was put out. He went into the road, armed himself with a half brick and a Belgian block, and returning to the saloon, hurled one through the mirror and smashed the sign off the cash register with the other.

In default of his fine, Moulton will serve sixty days in jail and ten days in the workhouse.

REPEW ASSAULTS UNCLE. Roy C. Jones Fined Ten Dollars for Beating Roy B. Jones.

Roy C. Jones was fined \$10 by Judge Scott in the United States branch of the Police Court yesterday for assaulting his uncle, Roy B. Jones.

The alleged difficulty was said to have taken place near the corner of I and Twelfth Streets northwest on November 20.

According to the testimony, the two Joneses were talking over family affairs, when Roy C. asked Roy B. with a pair of brass knuckles and beat him about the head. The accused denied the allegation.

THREATENED TO KILL HER. Mrs. Yates Allegation in Petition to the Courts for Divorce.

Mrs. Rebecca Yates declares that in October last her husband, John C. Yates, after two years of cruelty, threatened to kill her.

On the night in question, she says in her petition for divorce, filed yesterday, he procured a razor and a revolver, and after she had retired, came to her bedside and threatened her. She asserts that he declared he intended to kill her and then sought himself.

To convince her of the earnestness of his intention Mrs. Yates says her husband experimented as to the best way of taking his life by placing the muzzle of the pistol in his mouth.

Mrs. Yates says that her husband conducts a printing business, which yields him an income of from \$100 to \$150 per month, and she asks the court to allow her suitable alimony.

Mr. H. B. Moulton is named as counsel for the petitioner.

WAGON DAMAGED IN COLLISION. A runaway horse attached to a wagon belonging to James H. Johnson, of 1122 Eighteenth Street northwest, ran away about 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning, the vehicle colliding at the corner of Eleventh and E Streets northwest with another wagon belonging to Walter J. Cogswell, of 200 Eleventh Street northwest. Mr. Johnson's wagon was damaged to the extent of \$5, but the other vehicle was uninjured.

BITTEN BY JEALOUS WOMAN. Judge Kimball Would as Soon Be Bitten by Mad Dog.

Mary Burrell, a negro, about twenty-two years of age, with an ugly wound just below her lower lip, was in the Police Court yesterday as chief witness against Margaret Johnson, also colored, charged with assault and disorderly conduct.

The Burrell woman said: "Margaret and I live in the same house. Saturday night a man called on me, and when he started out to get me beer she got jealous and threw me down and bit me."

"It is as soon as a mad dog bite me as a mad woman," said Judge Kimball. "Fifty dollars or six months for the assault; five dollars or fifteen days for the disorderly charge."

Margaret went to jail.

FISHER'S HARD LUCK STORY. How He Explained His Resumption of the "Speakeasy" Business.

Charles Fisher, a very black man, was called in the Police Court yesterday to plead a charge of running an unlicensed bar.

"I had run a speakeasy," said Fisher, "but knew I was doing wrong and went to the police and told them I was going to quit. I kept my word, but got into hard luck a short time ago, and yesterday I sold a couple of half-pints to men I had served before."

Judge Kimball gave him four months in the workhouse in default of a fine of \$400. The usual fine is \$500 or five months.

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We have every right to expect your greatest favors. It's the right that affects your purse. We ask you less money and we give you a choice from the finest collection of Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry, etc., in Washington—three times the stock any other house can show you. If variety counts, if exclusiveness counts—if savings count—if credit counts, we have every right to expect you to "open a charge account at Castelberg's."

Single-stone Diamond Ring—gem of beauty— \$30.00	Two-stone Diamond Ring—one of the most popular styles—brilliant white stones— \$60.00	14-karat Gold Locket, set with genuine diamonds— \$25.00	Diamond-studded Watch, as handsome a timepiece as one can conceive— \$35.00	Boys' Rings of many kinds—14-karat gold— \$2.25
A dainty Diamond Ring—14-karat, brilliant-cut diamond— \$10.00	Single-stone Diamond Ring—like this illustration, for \$15.00	14-karat Gold Locket, set with diamonds— \$8.00	Solid 14-karat Gold-mounted Watch Fob, in a number of designs—from \$3.50 up.	Fine Large Brilliant Diamonds, mounted into tasteful 14-karat gold rings— \$60.00
Three-stone Diamond Ring—large brilliant stones— \$115.00	Fancy Rings, like the illustration— \$5.00	Solitaire Diamond Ring—large, first stone, Tiffany mounting— \$80.00	14-karat Gold Watch, hand-carved and set with genuine diamonds— \$32.00	Longnette Chain of 14-karat gold, with slides set with rubies and diamonds— \$12 up.
Five-stone Diamond Ring, very white stones— \$63.00	Beautiful Diamond Rings, white, very stones, extra size—special at \$75.00	Fancy Rings, set with opals and pearls— \$5.00	A Diamond Heart—set with 9 beautiful full-cut diamonds. The exact size of illustration. We challenge any one to produce its equal at— \$45.	A Beautiful Diamond Ring—a blaze of light. Special at— \$80.00
A beautiful new style Ring, diamond setting— \$6.00	Fancy Rings, set with stones of all colors— \$3.50	Beautiful Diamond Ring—white, very stones, extra size—special at \$75.00	A Diamond-mounted Watch—a reliable timepiece, with case studded with diamonds— \$35.00	Rich, refined Diamond Rings, in fancy mountings—set brilliant diamonds— \$90.00
		Diamond Pendant—a new design. Specially low at— \$45.00	Masonic Watch Chain—14-karat gold— \$10.00	Opal or Turquoise Rings, in unique mountings— Opals, \$8. Turquoise, \$4.
		Pearl and Diamond Pendants—as low as \$8.00	Solid 14-karat Gold Scarf Pins, set with genuine diamonds— \$2 up.	Boys' Rings, in 14-karat gold—a variety of settings— \$2.00 up
			Pearl and Diamond Rings, fancy mountings— \$35.00	Heavy Carved Rings, set with genuine almandines— \$3.50 up
			Pearl and Diamond Brooches like the illustration— \$22.00	

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